



Future Farmers of America Leadership Conference

**Governor Jan Brewer
Thursday, June 10, 2010**

Good evening, everyone.

I am delighted to be here with all of you – all ONE THOUSAND of you – as you celebrate your 81st annual State FFA Leadership Conference.

I never cease to be amazed at your speaking and procedural skills. I think I see here some future legislators, or maybe even some future Governors.

I am also well aware of the wonderful student projects you have, and I congratulate those of you who will be recognized for your efforts at this conference.

I know that FFA is experiencing an all time high in membership of nearly 6000 secondary and post-secondary students.

This increase in membership is proof of a growing interest in agriculture and students wanting to prepare their futures through the wonderful leadership programs in FFA.

Although rooted in farming, the FFA has evolved to keep pace with the changing agriculture industry, and the opportunities available to FFA members developing leadership, personal growth, and career success through agricultural education.

FFA is one of the premier Career and Technical Student Organizations that provides crucial employable skills for our future workforce.

Through competing in Career Development Events, attending conferences such as this, or even by interacting with students from a neighboring FFA chapter, this

organization presents you with numerous chances to develop the skills you need to be successful.

We know that because of your involvement in the FFA, you are more likely to do well in high school, more likely to go on to college and more likely to succeed in professional careers.

I am proud of the FFA and the opportunities it gives to each and every one of you to become effective leaders in your school, your community, and your future workplace.

I am also proud to have signed HB 2245 establishing an *Arizona Agricultural Youth Organization* special license plate.

Money from the sales of these special plates will help more students in poorer schools participate in agriculture education.

And, it is important that we spread the word as far and as wide as possible about how important the agriculture industry is to all Arizonans – and our state's economy.

With the help of the agriculture industry, Arizona is on the comeback trail – and I intend to win the future for you and your children and your grandchildren.

We are restoring Arizona – committed to this comeback -- based on our common values, cultivated in the soil of self-sacrifice -- creating a future that is predictable, reliable and stable.

Abraham Lincoln said, "The struggle of today is not altogether FOR today; it is for a vast FUTURE also. With a reliance on Providence, all the more firm and earnest, let us proceed in the great task which events have placed upon us."

So, as you continue through this conference, I encourage you to view each activity you participate in as a new opportunity – an opportunity to lead, to grow, and to succeed.

Best wishes to those of you who will be continuing on to the National FFA Convention for competitive events.

God bless you and your families, God bless Arizona and may God bless the Future Farmers of America.

Thank you.